

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

WALTER AND LILLIAN GOUGAR

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Interviewee

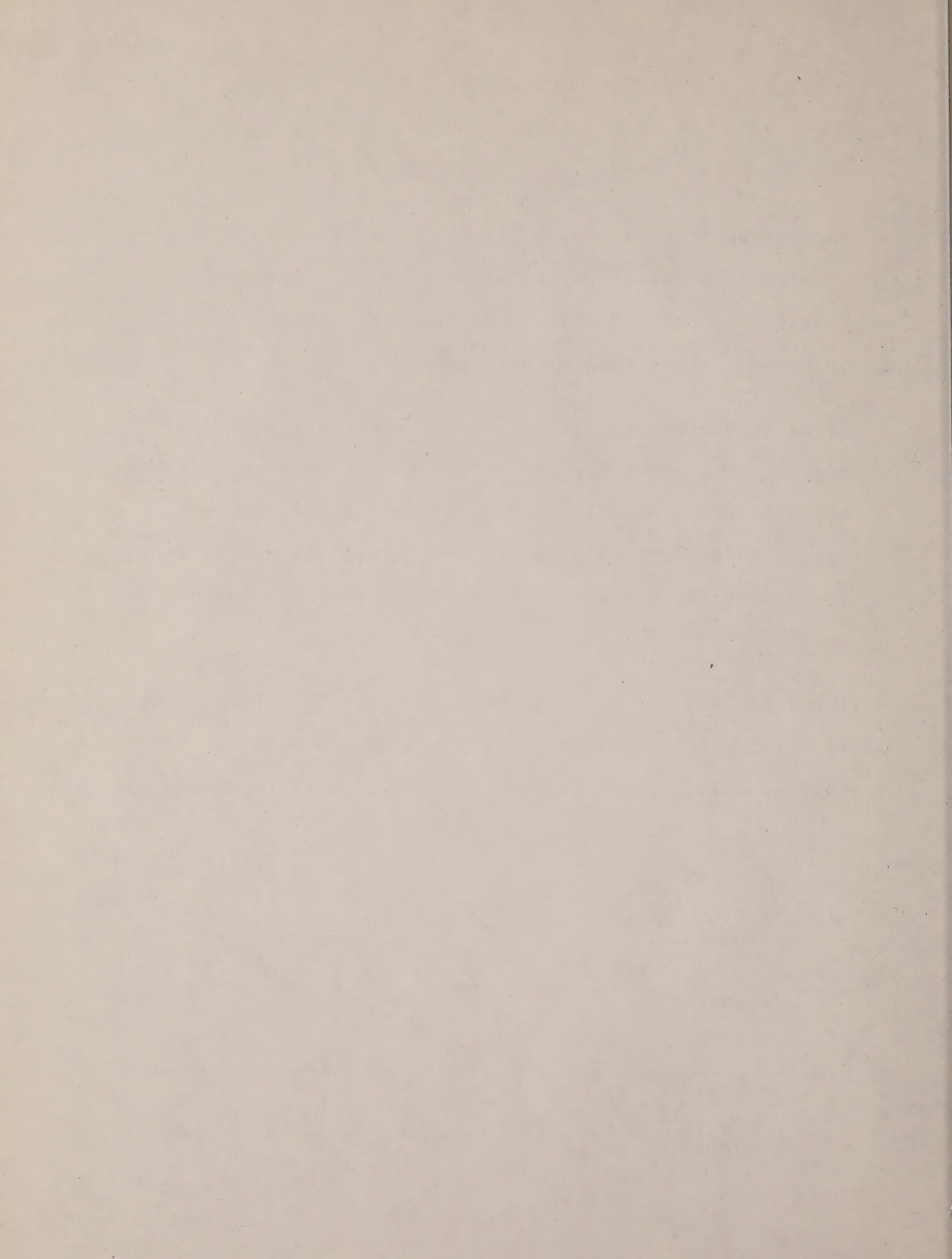
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3-26-79
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INTERVIEWEE: Walter and Lillian Gougar

INTERVIEWER: Donna Manheim

INTERVIEWER: This is an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gougar for the Joliet Junior College Oral History Program by Donna Manheim at 127 Pine Street, New Lenox, Illinois on March 26, 1979 at 4:15 o'clock.

MANHEIM: Mr. Gougar you were talking about your ancestors and about the Indians. Do you think you can tell us more about the Indians? What actually happened when they were here?

MR. GOUGAR: Well, I don't know what actually happened. They didn't like the settlers moving in on them, and when this settlement was established down here at the crossing, why the country was full of Indians down here. They started making it kind of tough for these people, finally they had to get out. And they went down near Danville, but then they got things kind of straightened out, and they came back to Hickory Creek Settlement. I guess after that I don't think they had much trouble with the Indians.

MANHEIM: Did they come bother you at all--come over here on your land? Did you have any stories about it?

MRS. GOUGAR: Oh, you know about your grandfather. The Indians used to come by and want some chickens from him.

MR. GOUGAR: Oh well, that's another story. When my grandfather settled down here on what do you call it--New Lenox Road, on the farm down here where Mr. Archibald lives now. That's where he settled. When they moved down to the crossing, there were several of them, and they settled in all different parts of the country. Joe Gougar settled out here, my grandfather, that's who settled here. Now I used to hear them telling

stories--different stories about the Indians. This is the Salk Trail that goes through here and my grandfather got part of that old farmhouse, where they lived. And the Indians evidently were pretty good beggars. They would stop in along the route and beg for something to eat. Chickens were their favorite. So my grandfather told them they could have some chickens if they, the young Indians, would have to shoot them with their bow and arrows. So he would sit out on the front porch of the house and watch the Indians, young Indians, run around the yard shooting chickens, and he'd give them chickens. I don't know how many he'd give them, but he'd give them chickens. That's the way the Indians did all along the route over into Indiana where they collected their yearly stipend from the government.

MANHEIM: Do you know if there were any burials? When they dug Gougar Road up, do you know if they had to dig out any Indian burials or anything?

MR. GOUGAR: Down here at the crossing, well this would be my great-grandfather, built a hay barn, and it didn't have a foundation all the way around it. They just dig out holes to put flattened rock in there to hold the posts. They built these hay barns on posts. Of course the hay barns broke and many of the roofs came down part way. Well, there were several times when digging these holes, they would run into Indian burial graves, and they found all kinds of them there. They didn't dig any further. After they got the barn built, they had to quit their digging. The other graves remained there till years and years later. And it wasn't until they widened Gougar Road from the Rock Island north that they got the rest of them--because of the road. He was going to take the whole graves. So he dug them all up, what was left, and reburied them over in Pilcher Park.

And there's a big stone over there, I forget what's written on it, but it's an Indian Burial ground now, and all of those Indian remains are over in Ingalls Park, and that's the story.

MRS. GOUGAR: Is that the one that Harry had them--in the Gougar Road area--and he had them buried over on the Pilcher Road there. He's got it marked with a marker over there.

MR. GOUGAR: I can tell you kind of a funny story about the experience I had when I was a youngster. I used to go down there quite often. Lou Gougar lived there, he was a cousin of my dad's. I was down there one day playing around in the barn--he was doing chores. Finally he says, "Hey see that pail hanging over there on the nail?" It was an old bucket made out of, oh I don't know crushed paper or whatever they used to use when they made pails in those days. So he said, "Bring it over here." Ok, I went over and I unhooked the pail, and as I was carrying it back over to him, I looked in there and there was a head in there--Indian skull.

MANHEIM: A real Indian skull?

MR. GOUGAR: I laughed when I saw that Indian head in that pail, and that had hung there for years right in the barn.

MANHEIM: Ok, back to your ancestors. Could you talk about your ancestors, like your grandfather? You were telling me about the Gold Rush.

MR. GOUGAR: The Gold Rush. . .out in California. Well, this was 1849. They had settled out here across from the A & P. Of course my grandfather wasn't married at the time. I don't know just exactly the date. But, anyhow, he went to California during the Gold Rush. He didn't dig any gold,

but being a farmer, he was pretty good at raising vegetables. And he started gardening, and he sold the vegetables to the gold-diggers, and he made more money than they did, selling them something to eat.

MRS. GOUGAR: You have some gold dust, don't you?

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, I have a little gold dust that he brought back. He went out there, and he came back pretty well fixed. He bought almost a square mile of land, down there west of New Lenox, and that's where he lived. He bached it--he was a bachelor, and he built a house. He got it all built and paid for, and then he got married. He went to a fair, a county fair, they held down in Kankakee. He had a fancy horse. That was quite the thing in those days to have a fancy rig. He had that down there. They had a parade, with all the fancy equipment, and he joined the parade. He sat there by himself. Finally somebody approached him and said, "Hey, you ought to have a partner. You're sitting all alone." He said, "Bring one over!" So Miss Hawkins had gone over, and she climbed up there and sat down along side of him. They joined the parade and were very shy, naturally at that point, and they got married.

MANHEIM: Oh, that turned out nice.

MRS. GOUGAR: What was that about the furniture? He didn't have any furniture or anything. It seemed to me Aunt Nellie told me that.

MR. GOUGAR: There was some people that came by in a covered wagon. I think they were headed west. That was a big thing in those days--people coming through here heading west. I can remember when I was a kid some covered wagons going through here. But anyhow, they got hard up; they were broke. They had a lot of furniture packed in these covered wagons. So they stopped

and wanted to know if he wanted to buy some furniture. Well, he did, that was just what he needed. So he bought some furniture from them.

MRS. GOUGAR: It is made out of hand carved rose finish, hand carved rosewood. We have the rocking chair up there. We had a rocking chair and four straight chairs. Kay has one of them, I gave her one. And Janet has one down there. And I've got one upstairs. And Mary Jane has one. Then there was the table. Oh, it was a beautiful table. Mary Jane had it re-finished by that fellow in Joliet. She's got the table that belonged to that set of furniture. Aunt Nellie used to keep it in her house over here. She had a double living room, it was called a parlor and then a living room, you know, and in the parlor she had all this furniture. And it's in a rose design, and it's hand carved, and it's a beautiful piece of furniture. I'll show you the rocking chair upstairs.

MR. GOUGAR: H. L. Higginbotham, he was also a landowner, and when they opened the fair in 1892 in Chicago, he was president of the World's Fair. He and my grandfather were pretty close friends. Of course they both owned a lot of the land. It was through their friendship that an uncle of mine was a ticket seller at the World's Fair.

MANHEIM: You said there was the first post office. Do you know where about it was?

MR. GOUGAR: Yes. They built the first post office. It was just south of-- just down the hill there--just south of the highway.

MANHEIM: Your grandfather built it?

MR. GOUGAR: No, my great-grandfather. It was my grandfather's grandfather

that settled there. They had quite a large family--William, Jacob, Dan, Joe and Jake.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, she was talking about the first post office. It used to be there right across from Gougar--the old Gougar homestead.

MR. GOUGAR: The brother of my grandfather had a tannery north of the creek. He used to tan cow hides and make leather goods.

MANHEIM: You said your father and uncle had the first wooden telephone.

MR. GOUGAR: Well, before there were any telephones in this area, we were living on a farm a half mile south of New Lenox. My grandparents were living in New Lenox right across from what is now the old Methodist Church. They lived there and, of course, they lived with my aunt, and she was taking care of them. And the only way they could get any conversation with one another was they could hitch up their horse and buggy and drive it or walk. So my dad and his brother, Frank, went to Chicago one time and they found two old wooden telephones. I don't know where they found them. They came home with them. And they established one in the farmhouse and the other one in the house in New Lenox. They went over in the woods somewhere. Dad had 20 acres of woodland over there. And they cut some poles--some trees--and made poles out of them, and planted the poles from the house in New Lenox to the house out on the farm, about a half a mile. Then they got them wired and got them operating, and they had the only two telephones in the country--private phones. Then after the Chicago Telephone Company started installing phones around this area, they got dad to take over the switchboard and the repair work on the lines. He had an area from Ingalls Park clear up to Tinley Park. He covered that with a horse and buggy. I

used to ride along with him and hold the horse while he climbed the telephone poles. I was about 12 years old and they used to let me attend telephones, the switchboard.

MANHEIM: That must have been something. You said you used to go rabbit hunting when you were a kid.

MR. GOUGAR: Oh yes, all the time--quail, rabbits. Way back in those days, I don't remember very many things. I used to go rabbit hunting all the time. There wasn't so much to do in those days.

MANHEIM: For transportation, you said something about the dinkey steam engine?

MR. GOUGAR: The what?

MANHEIM: The dinkey steam engine?

MR. GOUGAR: Oh, that was on the Michigan Central Railroad. The Michigan Central ran from Joliet to Michigan City, Indiana. The train consisted of one coach and the engine. The engine was a small type engine and there was large smoke stacks, as you've seen pictures of. That used to run back and forth between Joliet and Michigan City. The conductor on that engine was John Beaver. He was a civil war veteran, and he had stripes on his arm. I used to get quite a kick out of looking at that arm. Of course that railroad has been abandoned now for quite a while.

MRS. GOUGAR: I remember they used to try to come up there, but I don't think it carried passengers, even since we moved out there.

MR. GOUGAR: Well, they had a freight train--carried freight.

MANHEIM: What about the horse and buggy? Did they have a lot here?

Horse and buggies?

MR. GOUGAR: Oh yes, they had all kinds of horse and buggies. It was the only way you could travel--the horse and buggy or the train. Of course, the electric streetcar ride was built up in. . .I used to ride the streetcar in New Lenox. But that didn't last too long. They built that just about the time the automobile was coming. The automobiles drove out the street-cars.

MANHEIM: You said that you had the first car.

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, my dad bought the first automobile in New Lenox. He went to town one day--I didn't know he was going to buy a car--and here he came home driving an old one cylinder Cadillac. Engine under the front seat, a chain drive. You had to stick a crank in the side to get the battery going in order to get the engine going. And I drove that a lot when I was a kid. He only had that about a year and he traded it in on a new one--four cylinder. He took a lot of people to the hospital in it. It served as an ambulance as well as a passenger car. If something happened, somebody got sick and had to go to the hospital right away, they called the house and my dad or I would take them to the hospital.

MANHEIM: You had a little business going there.

MR. GOUGAR: I knew several people their first and last ride was in that car. They'd never been in an automobile before. They rode to the hospital and that was their last ride.

MANHEIM: Well, at least they got to ride in one. There was a flood in 19....?

MR. GOUGAR: In 1903. It was a biggy! We saved the house. We had a good view from there north. We got up one morning and knew there was a flood. Everything was water north of the Rock Island Railroad. It just looked like a vast lake.

MANHEIM: Was there another flood later on?

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, in the 30's there was a flood. Pretty near as bad as that, too. The lumber yards was flooded out. They had six inches of water all over the floor. I was working in Harvey at the time. Driving there, I got stalled right in front of the lumber company going to work.

MRS. GOUGAR: They called by telephone, and Mary Jane and I went over and got him, and we had to go clear down around Pilcher Park and up over there to get him. We went through water part of the way there to get him and bring him home. He was parked over there in front of the lumber company. Didn't know whether he was going to stay there or not.

MR. GOUGAR: There was 14 inches of water on Lincoln Highway right down there by the campground.

MANHEIM: The Methodist Campground?

MRS. GOUGAR: Yes.

MANHEIM: On the creek--you went fishing a lot there? Hickory Creek?

MR. GOUGAR: Fishing in Hickory Creek? Oh yes, the fishing was real good. Bass--suckers--they used to have some nice small mouth bass.

MRS. GOUGAR: I've got a little story about fishing. We went down there fishing one day. We were living in our little place then. And he came up

and he brought these fish and I, of course, fixed them all for him. He says, "It's a good thing somebody in this family can go down there and catch enough fish for a meal!" And we had enough for a meal!

MR. GOUGAR: Used to be a beautiful stream--a lot of springs all along the creek. It was strictly spring water in that creek, and if you did catch a fish, it sure tasted good.

MANHEIM: Did they have mills on the creek?

MR. GOUGAR: Mills? I was going to tell you about that. Down here in Pilcher Park on this side of the railroad track was the old Red Mill. They dug a small canal along side of the creek, and they had that so they could let water go through the canal. And on this canal they built a large building, the Brist Mill they called it. Inside of that building was a great big paddle wheel to let the water turn. That was down there just beside the Rock Island.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, if you go in there on the Pilcher Park Road, you'll see over to one side there right after Pilcher Park, there is a stone right where the road turns. We used to go in that way, you know, before they closed it and built that bridge on farther down. Don't you remember that stone?

MR. GOUGAR: I think part of that stone wall is still there.

MRS. GOUGAR: Yes, I think it is.

MR. GOUGAR: There's a building next to that. You know in that flood, it washed out the road.

MANHEIM: Oh, it was that bad?

MRS. GOUGAR: We used to go down past Higginbothams on New Lenox Road, down past Higginbothams aways, and then the road turned and went over a bridge, and that's where we went around where that stone was. We used to go in that way to town.

MR. GOUGAR: I'll tell you another thing we kids used to have a lot of fun doing--bobsledding. I built a long bobsled made out of two sleds. I bought two sleds and I took them down to the blacksmith shop. They had flat runners on them. The blacksmith took off the flat runners and put the round ones on. We used to start out at the top of Cedar Street. The telephone company has got a building now, right there at the corner.

MRS. GOUGAR: No, down here. Isn't this the telephone company down here?

MANHEIM: Oh, up here? That building right there? Yes, I think they just built that new one, but is there one down there, too?

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, did they have. . .? Seems to me I heard you say something about. . .by Archie's store?

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, that's where we started. We started out at the top there and went clear down the hill across the highway, across the Rock Island Railroad, and on down and past where the lumber company is. And then we had to walk way back up!

MANHEIM: Oh, that must have been a long walk.

MRS. GOUGAR: Good exercise.

MANHEIM: On the creek, did they have any. . .use the creek for transportation?

MR. GOUGAR: No, but they did have a lot of skating parties down there.

Everybody used to go down there skating, playing crack the whip. Of course it was twice as wide as it is now.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, didn't the Indians used to paddle canoes up and down the. . .between here and Gougar crossing up there? I thought I heard them say something about the Indians.

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, they probably did.

MANHEIM: Was there a fire in New Lenox?

MR. GOUGAR: Fire? Oh we had a lot of fires. The largest one that I know of was down there by the Lincoln Highway. It burned everything from the elevators east to Cedar Street. Ward Knickerbocker had a grocery store--a general store--and a post office. And an uncle of mine had a barber shop and this fellow had a meat market. George Kennedy had a meat market there. And Mr. Semmler from the Semmler Newspaper, his father had a cobbler shop and that whole thing burned. I know after it was over with and the place kind of cooled down, a bunch of us kids went down there and got sticks and was poking around in the ashes. We found a spot where the cash register must have set. It spilled all the pennies and the small change, and we were raking that. And you know how a bunch of kids will get? Two of them grabbed for the same penny. Finally some guy came along and seen what was going on. "Come on now boys," he says, "straighten out, let them lie here". And he lined us all up and he picked up the pennies and handed one to this guy and one to that guy. (Laughter)

MANHEIM: So everybody got their share.

MR. GOUGAR: We had a fire. We lived in that house right across from--I

don't know who lives there--right across from the old Methodist Church.

MANHEIM: Oh, I know what house you're talking about. Right by Haven School?

MR. GOUGAR: That was the house where my grandfather lived when he moved to New Lenox off the farm. It was right during the depression that it burned out.

MRS. GOUGAR: It was next door to the Methodist parsonage, because I can remember Harry was just a little fellow and the minister's wife used to bring Harry over there. And all the kids in the school, it was right after they built that school, asked to go to the bathroom and all, because the teachers tried to keep them all in. And they'd come and stand down at the end of the hall and look out that window. And they'd get excused and go out there, and they were all standing there watching the fire. There was just one house between, you know.

MR. GOUGAR: There was four houses in a row across from the old Methodist Church, and I seen three out of those four burn.

MANHEIM: Do you know any information about the Methodist campground? Was there anything that took place there?

MR. GOUGAR: Well, every summer they'd have camp meetings all during the summer months. They had quite a few cottages down there and some of the people used to live all summer in the cottages. Down in front there was the speaker stand, they called it. That's where the preacher was. And they had benches sitting right in rows. They went all the way back, and we used to go down there and sit and listen to the preacher, and they really

preached, I'll tell you. They closed, during the camp meeting season, they closed the church. At that time where the new church is now, it used to be called the tabernacle. That was quite a large building. And if it rained--the weather turned bad--everybody would run for the tabernacle. I don't know why they did, but they hired me to light the lamps all around the campground. They had kerosene lamps hanging on the trees.

MANHEIM: Like an alter boy, huh?

MR. GOUGAR: My job was to light them. I don't know whether I ought to tell this one or not. In this tabernacle, there was no floors, they had straw, and the benches sitting there, you know. I got the lights lit outside, and I went inside. They had a few of them in there. I went up to light it and I tried to open it too far and the kerosene was running lit from there down into the straw.

MRS. GOUGAR: He was there by himself.

MR. GOUGAR: I shut it off and I got busy putting that fire out in the straw. I never told a soul about that. Nobody ever knew what happened.

MRS. GOUGAR: Not until years after, when they couldn't do anything to him.

MR. GOUGAR: Another thing is, speaking of the campgrounds. You know there's a kind of a ditch, stream runs along in there. There used to be a platform built out over this creek. It had a railing around it. It seems like they had benches there, I'm not sure. But anyhow, right below, right directly underneath the platform there was a spring, an open spring.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, was that platform part of the recreational building that was up there? There was a big sort of hall.

MR. GOUGAR: Well, that was built between there and the creek. They had a pump on the platform and a cup hanging there, and they pumped it right out of the spring. Do you know where Delia Brown lives?

MANHEIM: Yes, yes I know.

MR. GOUGAR: Right in back of that lot is the spring. And her dad, I don't know if he built it or bought it, he had a wheel with a crank on it, and a chain, and there was cups attached to this chain, the chain went down into the water. You turned this wheel and the cup would come up full of water and dump it into a pail--spring water right in the back of their lot.

MANHEIM: Oh, about the stores in New Lenox. Do you remember the Dickenson's Lumber?

MR. GOUGAR: Dickenson's? Oh yes, Dickenson's store. H. M. Dickenson. Ah, let's see. . .who was it had that hardware store?

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, if you give me a hand maybe the name will come back to me. I know Dickenson's store was gone when I moved to New Lenox. I lived down there where Tom lives, you know, when we first moved out here. Do you remember Ray Reim's store? That used to be Dickenson's store. And Bert Brown had that store before.

MR. GOUGAR: Oh several years ago, George Hilton had it before Dickenson.

MRS. GOUGAR: Yes, yes, he lived at that house across the road from that.

MR. GOUGAR: Right across the street where the iron fence is around, that's where Dickenson lived.

MANHEIM: Oh yes, yes it's the real estate now, right?

MR. GOUGAR: Robbers got in that store one night, and they drilled holes in the safe, planted dynamite in there, and set the dynamite off--blew the door off and it hit the ceiling. I can remember everytime I went in the store, I'd look up and see if that door was hanging up there. That was quite a spot up there, right in the ceiling. He had a whoppin' big ceiling. Blew the door off. I tell you in those days there was quite a few times the stores got robbed in New Lenox.

MRS. GOUGAR: Yes, because when we first moved out here, they didn't have any street lights.

MR. GOUGAR: You know this store where the telephone building is now? A robber got in that one night. Somebody saw a light go on and called up Dr. Searles and he grabbed his gun and just as he got over to the store, here comes the robber out. He went out the door, the side door, heading north. And old Doc stepped over there and bang--bang--bang and the robber was lyin' down along side the store. He hit him. But that didn't stop him, he traileed blood clear over across. . .

MANHEIM: That was funny. Do you remember the Fellow's Hardware and grocery store?

MR. GOUGAR: Fellows. I don't remember.

MRS. GOUGAR: I remember Lucille Fellows.

MR. GOUGAR: There was a Willard Fellows. They used to live near the old Grange Hall. I remember the Fellows, but I can't remember the store. I guess it was on the corner of Pine and the main highway.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, the old Grange Hall sat up there, you know where Goldie Hopsin lives? Well, kitty corner across this way, there used to be a hall there. Maybe you remember. They used to have dances out there. And they'd have some people come out from Joliet, a few musicians, you know, that would play. Do you know any special musicians that used to come out and play?

MR. GOUGAR: We used to dance out there.

MRS. GOUGAR: Oh yes, we used to go to them. We'd take our kids and lay them on the benches along the side.

MR. GOUGAR: That was a big thing in those days. Every town had their dance hall. Manhattan had a dance hall, New Lenox, and up at Mokena. There wasn't much else to do.

MRS. GOUGAR: No. They'd meet about once a month. Once a month they'd meet down there at Grange. And we would all. . .there was always somebody on the committee, and they would call certain people to bring sandwiches or something, see, and we would have sandwiches. The head of the committee made the coffee. And they'd see to it that the musicians got some.

MR. GOUGAR: I'm trying to think of the musicians, a man and his wife, he played the violin and she played the piano.

MRS. GOUGAR: Yes, I remember, but I don't remember their name.

MR. GOUGAR: I thought of them just the other day. They were very popular. Good musicians.

MANHEIM: The French Fort. . .was there a real French Fort down on Francis?

I heard some people say that there was one.

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, it was right out near the Gougar crossing.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, that's where they were going back up into the woods. When I said they went up there for something or other, and a group of them from the reunion went up there. I think the rest of them wanted to see where this French Fort was. It was just across Gougar Road this way.

MR. GOUGAR: It was across there from the Rock Island Railroad. It was the first road you come to going east. Oh, you go maybe a quarter of a mile and on the north side there was the old French Fort.

MANHEIM: Is it still there?

MR. GOUGAR: Well no, but there is a gate there that you can go in and see where it used to be.

MANHEIM: Did anything important happen there? .

MR. GOUGAR: Oh, I don't know too much about it.

MANHEIM: Do you know why it was built?

MR. GOUGAR: No. I don't know much about it. Now on the opposite side of the road, the south side of the road, there used to be the trading post, the old trading post. I remember going down there one time with my dad.

MANHEIM: Oh, you were saying about hay barns?

MR. GOUGAR: Oh yes, all over town. There used to be one right across the road here.

MRS. GOUGAR: They used to have one right back here, didn't they, dad?

MR. GOUGAR: There was one here and one down there by the--where we buy groceries--the trading center.

MRS. GOUGAR: Well, I can remember when Smiths lived over here on the corner, there was a hay barn. Because Grandpa Smith used to come out and go down by there. It was right out between here and. . .

MR. GOUGAR: Right, not far from where Archie's daughter. . .there was one in that area too. Just north of the house. I can remember when there weren't any houses on that street. Oh, they had them all over.

MANHEIM: There were a lot of them?

MR. GOUGAR: Yes, because in those days everybody had a horse and now people have television, and it took a lot of hay. Of course there weren't the buildings now that took up the land area. You'd be surprised how much hay they cut right around town, and they'd fill these hay barns. Of course nearly everybody in town had a barn too, and a hayloft in that. They also had some ice houses down there. You ever been down there? Well, anyhow, Archie had an ice house right in back and then there was another one over there near the cemetery. John Urch had an ice house. And I know at that ice house there was kind of a cooperative affair. My dad belonged. When they cut ice, they'd all go and help cut ice to put it up, and then they'd have ice for the winter. All those people who helped put up ice would get a share of the ice during the summer. That's the only way they had of cooling, with the ice, no electricity, no refrigerators. They depended solely on the ice.

MRS. GOUGAR: Not electric refrigerators. They all had old wooden refrigerators. I have one here in the basement.

MR. GOUGAR: That ice was clear, too, spring water out of the creek. They used to make ice just above the, just east of the lumber yard there. On Pine Street on the west side of the road, across the bridge.

MANHEIM: By the VFW?

MR. GOUGAR: What's that? Yes. just north of the VFW. I showed you a picture of that, didn't I?

MANHEIM: Yes, I think so---when you were kids, down there?

MR. GOUGAR: They had a gravel pit with a crusher, a stone crusher, and the belt ran up to a threshing machine and they hauled gravel out of there. They had to drive through the creek to unload the gravel. They couldn't get it out any other way. The creek itself had stone on the bottom of it.

MRS. GOUGAR: Tell her about the swinging bridge that went over the creek. I know the Pens lived over on the other side.

MR. GOUGAR: Now that bridge was there until just a few years ago. It was just a narrow one. It was suspended on a cable. It was only about this wide. You could walk across the creek, just climb up the stairs and walk across that. Being suspended by cables, you know, we'd kind of swing that thing. We used to get out in the middle of that and we'd start swinging. Boy, we'd have that old bridge going like this, it's a wonder it didn't tumble us in the creek.

MRS. GOUGAR: I remember Mary Fran's mother used to come by when she walked

to the store. She'd come by when I lived down there along the highway. She always stopped and talked to me. We miss her around this town.

MR. GOUGAR: You know where Grange Hall was down there? That was the main meeting place.

MRS. GOUGAR: We used to go down there to vote.

MR. GOUGAR: There were the medicine men. That's a group that traveled all through the country selling medicine. Oh, they'd be down there for a week or ten days. They'd live in there. They'd tell all about the medicine, what it could do, and sell a lot of it. Of course that Grange Hall, that was the voting place, too. On election day, we all voted down there. Sorry to see that building torn down.

MRS. GOUGAR: Yes, me too. You know it was just up the hill from where we lived there. We had clubs. We gathered there about once a month, and they had these musicians, three or four of them would come out and they'd play. And it had facilities--a kitchen where we could fix coffee.

MANHEIM: Well, that's about it, you did good.

MR. GOUGAR: I don't know if it was very interesting or not.

MANHEIM: Oh, sure it was. I enjoyed it.

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